Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16768 181449Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /004 W
---------072441 181451Z /46
O 181449Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4456

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16768

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FOR SHINN FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. YOU HAVE NO DOUBT SEEN AP REPORTS OF INDICATIONS THAT THE TRIAL OF KIEV HELSINKI GROUP MEMBER LEV LUKYANENKO MAY HAVE BEGUN ON JULY 17 IN THE UKRAINIAN TOWN OF GORODNYA. THIS IS A CLOSE CALLBUT OUR INCLINATION IS NOT TO SEND SOMEONE TO TRY TO ATTEND. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT THE TRIAL IS IN FACT UNDERWAY. GORODNYA IS FAIRLY REMOTE, ABOUT 180 KILOMETERS FROM KIEV AND 40 KILOMETERS FROM THE OBLAST CAPITAL OF CHERNIGOV. KUKYANENKO IS NOT KNOWN TO US PERSONALLY. HIS BACKGROUND SUGGESTS HIS ACTIVITIES MAY HAVE BEEN ORIENTED MORE TOWARD UKRAINIAN NATIONALISM (AND PERHAPS SEPARATISM) THAN TO THE KINDS OF CSCE ISSUES - EMIGRATION AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION - ON WHICH THE MOSCOW GROUP FOCUSED.

2. WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE COUNTER ARGUMENTS - THE FACT THAT THE PRESENT CHARGE DOES SEEM DIRECTED TOWARD HIS HELSINKI GROUP ACTIVITIES; OUR RECENT ATTENDANCE AT A SERIES OF SIMILAR TRIALS IN MOSCOW - BUT THINK THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16768 181449Z

ON BALANCE WE SHOULD LET THIS ONE PASS. IF YOUR READING OF THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ATTENTION AND CONCERN CAUSED BY THE TRIAL DICTATES ATTEMPTING TO ATTEND, PLEASE LET US KNOW ASAP. (SOMEONE COULD TELEPHONE AND SIMPLY SAY THAT YOU FEEL "ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN.")
MATLOCK

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